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Untitled

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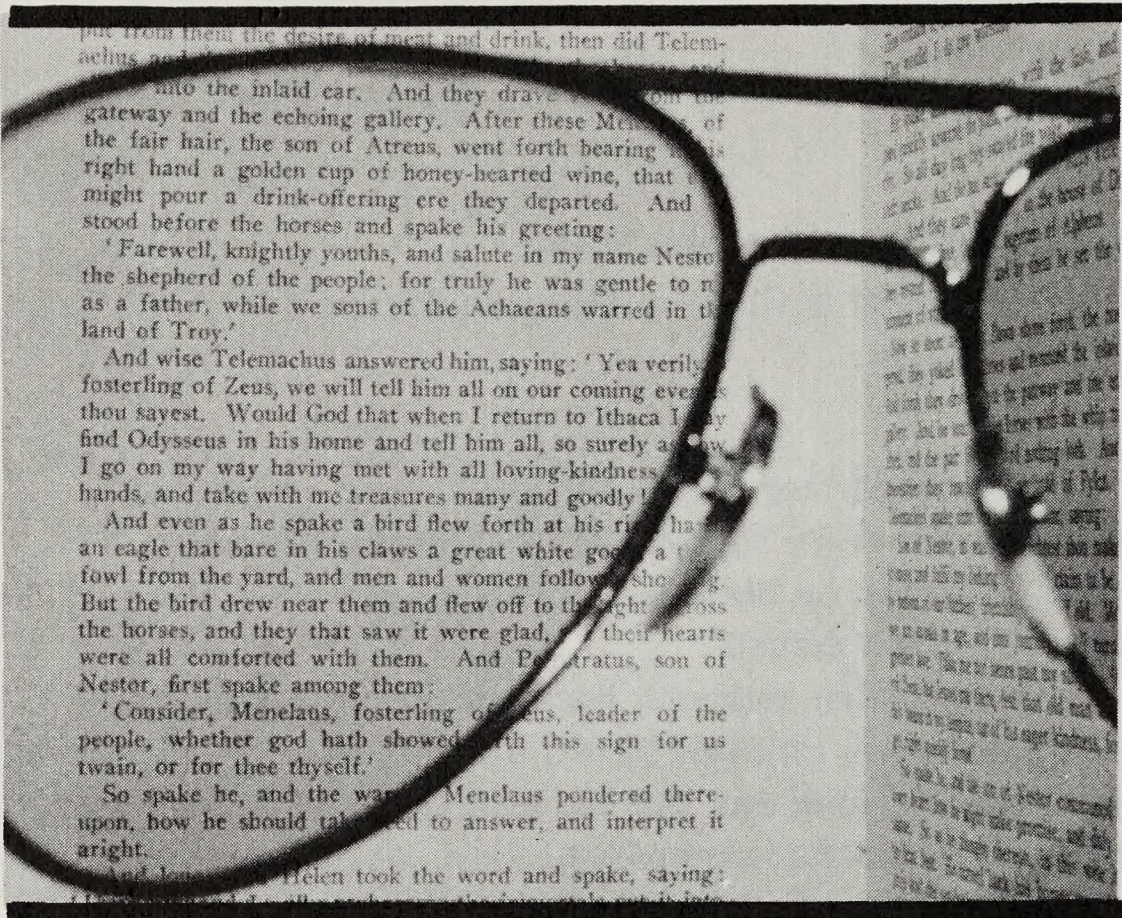
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David Field



Closing Arguments

John M. Ponzio

"Circuit Court for the county of Suffoux is now in session, the Honorable James T. Ciffone presiding."

Clement sat down and shuffled the papers on the table in front of him. The judge smacked his gavel against the bench.

"The case before the court is that of Alexander vs. Pettrolli. Is counsel for the prosecution present in the court?"

Clement, considered old in this day and age for an attorney, pulled himself with difficulty out of the chair. He steadied his shaking hands by tightly grasping the edge of the table. Too many closing arguments. He looked down at his hands, the veins of which stood out, stark blue against the paleness of his skin. He drew upon all of his 27 years, 5 of them on the bar, to maintain a semblance of command in his voice. He looked at the judge and said, "Here, your Honor." Clement's knees gave out. He dropped unceremoniously back to the chair.

The judge nodded. "Very well. Counsel for the defense?"

"Here, your Honor."